

I voted Yes on H.J.Res. 2, Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

If approved by Congress and ratified by the states, federal government spending could not exceed revenue receipts in any year unless three-fifths of the House and Senate vote to approve it. Any increase in the debt limit would also require a three-fifths vote in Congress.

Additionally, the President would be required to send a proposed balanced budget to Congress each year. Any legislation to increase taxes would require a true majority roll call vote. Currently, tax increases can be approved by a "voice vote" without personal accountability. Finally, Congress would be required to enforce the Balanced Budget Amendment through appropriate legislation.

Washington's borrowing and spending is out of control. The national debt recently reached a startling \$15 trillion - the equivalent of \$127,900 owed by every Upstate household. Washington is borrowing 40 cents of every dollar it spends, much of it from the China, and is sending the bill to our children and grandchildren.

Our debt has been a long time in the making, but spending and deficits over the last three years have accelerated debt at an unprecedented pace. Forty-nine states already have some form of a balanced budget requirement. Upstate families live within their means and so should the federal government.

I voted Yes because a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution would be a serious restraint on Washington's spending and help safeguard our children from debt. Unfortunately, the amendment required a two-thirds vote for passage and failed by a vote of 261 – 165.